

Editorials

Spies From the Campus

NEARLY EVERYONE likes to read of the thrills and romantic adventures of spies, whether they be 007, Mata Hari, or The Man From Uncle. When any nation finds some of its spies exposed, the expected reaction is to deny them or at least to discard them as no longer useful.

The Central Intelligence Agency, it has been revealed, has for 14 years been subsidizing the National Student Association as a part of the CIA's program of ferreting out information about all phases of Communist activity.

The subsidy, totaling some \$3 million since 1952, helped the National Student Association send representatives to in-

ternational meetings, where they could combat the influence of Communist student groups.

In the years after World War II, Russia was very active in organizing and propagandizing the world student movement. They financed world youth festivals, rallies, conferences and forums.

In order to promote a voice in world gatherings for the message of freedom and, perhaps even more importantly, to obtain reports on the activities and political tendencies of foreign student leaders, the government and its intelligence arm, the CIA, were completely justified in working with the National Student Association.

War is more than exchanging rifle fire or dropping bombs. Defense against communism is more than radar screens and anti-aircraft artillery. Knowledge of the enemy's activities is vital to our national security and espionage can be as important to our safety as the Army or Air Force.

Although Sen. Ralph Yarborough wants to investigate the CIA activities in educational institutions and student organizations, it seems apparent that the spy agency's use of student sleuths during the administration of three presidents was related to one cause—gathering of needed information.

There will be some political skirmishes about the program, particularly from those who seem to think that it's fine for the Reds to have spies but unsportsmanlike for America.

Meanwhile, it is imperative that we keep all the help we can get from solid young American students, not only from contacts abroad but on American college campuses.